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Additional information about the history of Straub Hall and campus development is available under the Heritage Landscape Plan on the CPDC website:
http://cpdc.uoregon.edu/

Special thank you to Straub Hall Building Manager, George Helbling.
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This assessment identifies Straub Hall’s historically significant interior finishes, features, and spaces. Straub Hall is identified as a building with secondary historic significance (UO 4.0 Survey of Buildings). This means that it is likely to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, it is important to identify historically significant features and consider ways to preserve them.

Each interior space with potential historic significance is assigned a ranking of high, medium, or low. In addition, the space’s integrity, defined as the degree to which the key historic elements are evident today, is ranked excellent, good, fair, or poor. Refer to the Appendix D for a description of the ranking methodology.

Straub Hall was built in 1928 as the university’s men’s dormitory. Designed by Ellis Lawrence in the Colonial Revival Style, the interior public spaces and gathering areas incorporated notable decorative woodwork and other features not found elsewhere on campus. In 1975 Straub Hall was converted to classrooms, offices, labs, and clinics to serve the Psychology Department.

Straub Hall retains much of its original character despite the numerous renovation projects undertaken to accommodate changing standards and building-user needs. The exterior remains remarkably intact since its opening in 1928, as does the building’s central lobby. Many other portions of the building’s interior remain intact as well.

**Timeline:**

- **1917:** Architect E. F. Lawrence designs the new UO men’s dormitory.
- **1928:** Men’s Dormitory (Straub Hall) constructed.
- **1933:** Men’s Dormitory renamed John Straub Memorial Hall.
- **1954:** Various electrical and mechanical updates completed.
- **1955:** Earl Hall (designed by Church, Newberry, and Roehr) attached to the rear (east).
- **2001:** North wing expanded and remodeled to accommodate the Lewis Center for Neuroimaging Center.
- **2010:** Plans for seismic retrofit initiated.
- **2010:** Straub Hall extensively remodeled to house Psychology Department.
GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS
TO KEEP IN MIND:

1. Straub Hall, as a dormitory, was split into six different “dorms.” Each of these was separated from the others by fire walls. In the 1974 remodel these walls were no longer necessary so they were removed and replaced with fire doors. Additionally, each of these six spaces has its own building entrance with ceramic tile flooring.

The southern most exterior entrance to the second floor on the west facade still boasts the original mail room for that entry, equipped with the original mail slot and door buzzer on the exterior.

2. All original doors can be identified by their panel design. Most original doors have a ten-panel system with simple bevelled insets. Some others have eight panels, some have three with windows. Any doors that do not fit this description are not original (see examples below).

3. The ground (first) and second floors were more public in the original design, with the third and fourth floors being mostly studies or sleeping areas. All original spaces for congregation (living rooms, dining rooms, etc.) were located on the first and second floors.

4. Straub Hall now features two elevators. The elevator in the North Skylight Hallway (east wall) is original and only connects the main floor (originally the meal prep area) to the basement (originally the kitchen storage area). The second elevator (in the North Hallway) was added in 1974 and connects the first through fourth floors.

5. Dining Rooms 1-5 (142, 143, North Skylight Hallway, 146, South Skylight Hallway, 154, 155, 156B) originally had clear maple flooring, while 6 (156D) had grey linoleum. Likewise, all guest rooms, corridors, and living rooms had taupe linoleum flooring. These spaces were replaced with wall-to-wall carpeting in 1984.

6. All photographs of spaces in this report were taken in 2010 unless otherwise noted.
SURVEYED AREAS & RANKINGS:

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

[Diagram of building floors with areas marked as Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, and Non-Contributing]
Room 119:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Good / Excellent
Ranking: Secondary

Original Use: Living Room
Existing Use: Meeting Room

Historic Materials: One-half of the entry archway, all window casings, the fireplace and its mantle, built-in shelving and wood paneling.

Alterations: The south half of the archway was filled in to allow for new standard 3’ doors on the exterior and interior entrances. Carpeting was installed (it is unclear if the original taupe linoleum flooring remains underneath). All window casings, the fireplace, and the wood paneling on the walls are original but have been refinshed and painted throughout the years. Some wood paneling has been added and made to look original.

The ceiling was lowered using an acoustical tiling system. The original wood picture rail moldings at the original ceiling height are evident above the ceiling tiles along the north wall.
Room 122:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Good / Excellent
Ranking: Secondary

Original Use: Living Room
Existing Use: Conference/Meeting Room

Historic Materials: Most wood paneling, fireplace, built-in shelving and ceramic tile entrance, as well as what remains of the entry archway and ceiling moldings (hidden).

Alterations: The ramp along the west wall, as well as the paneling along the same wall, were 1974 ADA additions. The archway was effectively widened 3’ when the closet and adjacent wall were removed to allow for the ramp. The mirror above the mantle was removed and the carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum flooring remains underneath the carpet.

At one point the room was split into two offices, which is still evident in the remaining scars in the ceiling panels and on the walls. The room was returned to its original configuration some time ago.
Rooms L133, 137, 139:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Poor
Ranking: Tertiary

Original Use: Entry and Living Room
Existing Use: Entry, Office, and Conference/Meeting Room

Historic Materials: The entry tile flooring, configuration, and closet doors. In the rooms the firebox, half of the entry archway, and window moldings are intact.

Alterations: Half of the archway was filled in, and the room was divided into two spaces.

All of the wainscoting, doors, and hardware have been replaced. Also, the bricks surrounding the fireplace and the terra-cotta tiles are thought to be of a different era.

No ceiling molding is evident here.
Level of Historic Significance: High
Integrity: Good
Ranking: Primary

Original Use: Hallway
Existing Use: Hallway and Lobby

Historic Materials: Wood wall paneling, trim and doors, ceramic tile, and columns. Also, the original coved ceiling molding remains above the dropped tiles.

Alterations: The most notable changes include the ceiling finishes and the addition of an elevator.

The original ceiling was covered by an acoustical suspended tile system. In 1974 an elevator was added between two existing structural columns, which were maintained.

Significant portions of the wood paneling have been replaced due to general upkeep.
Rooms 142, 143:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Good
Ranking: Secondary

Original Use: Dining Hall
Existing Use: Classroom and Conference Room

Historic Materials: The north wall wood paneling in room 142, as well as the window casings. The wood paneling in room 143 and the cabinets as well has hardware in niche on the south wall, which was originally used for a sink station.

Alterations: The west and south walls in room 142 were originally accordion walls. The wood can still be seen in the hallway, however in this space the new wall covering masks the original detailing. Carpeting was installed here. It is unclear if the original clear maple flooring remains under the carpet.

The wall that splits this space in two is new, as well as the infill of a window in room 143 on the north wall due to the addition of a space on the other side of the wall (Earl Hall). The newer panelling used to fill the original window in this room is evident due to the drastic change in the inset panel squares.
North Skylight Hallway:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Good
Ranking: Secondary

Original Use: Dining Room
Existing Use: Hallway and Lobby

Historic Materials: The skylight, wood trim, and accordion-wall.

Alterations: The most notable change is the ceiling material and doors.

The original ceiling has been covered by a suspended acoustical tile system.

The paneled walls of this space are the original accordion walls. They have been fixed into place and the joints have been covered with battens. The original scars from the bumpers and the walls scraping against the moldings are still visible on the accordion panels.

Carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original clear maple flooring remains under the carpet.

Example of Different Finishes (New vs Original).
Lobby:

Level of Historic Significance: High
Integrity: Excellent
Ranking: Primary

Original Use: Main Lobby, Central Dining Hall Entrance
Existing Use: Main Lobby

Historic Materials: Wood paneling, trim, and doors on north, south, and entry walls, entry door openings, canvas lunette murals by K. E. Hudson, decorative cove molding, ceramic tile flooring, and lighting hardware.

Alterations: The most notable changes include the east wall and ramp.

The east wall was originally the entrance to the dining hall, which mirrored the main entrance to the building with three sets of double doors. In changing this room to a lecture hall, the entries were sealed. The infills were designed to match the existing columns, creating a seemingly original wall. Sitting here, too, is a bust of John Straub, in memoriam.

The original stairs were removed to add a ramp, making the Straub Hall lobby ADA compliant. The ramp is the most noticeable change in the space, since it clearly is not part of the original design. The baseboard that originally lined the stairs can still be seen.

The wood paneling and tile were patched and retouched throughout the years, though the original finish can be seen on the south side of the west wall.
**Room 146:**

**Level of Historic Significance:** High
**Integrity:** Excellent
**Ranking:** Primary

**Original Use:** Central Dining Room
**Existing Use:** Classroom

**Historic Materials:** Wood wall paneling, trim and doors, wood paneled cathedral-vaulted ceiling with wood trusses and foyer columns.

**Alterations:** The most notable changes affect the main entry/foyer and all wall surfaces.

The main entry/foyer on the west wall was altered for ADA compliance in 1974. A ramp and new stairs were added to the foyer. The built-ins that now stand with the foyer columns were added when this room was converted into a classroom, as was the tiered/stepped floor for enhanced seating. Carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original clear maple flooring remains under the carpet. Salvaged quarry tile from the lobby was used at the entries. An undulating acoustical wall covers the original accordion walls fixed in-place at the north and south ends of the room. The original wood paneling above the accordion walls was retained as a border. Above this a few rows of acoustical tiles were added. All wood has been refinished and touched up.

[^ ADA RAMP.]
[^ VAULTED CEILING.]
[^ WEST WALL AND ENTRY/FOYER, 2010.]
[^ ORIGINAL TRUSS DETAIL, 1928.]
[^ SOUTH WALL - ACoustical Panels.]
**South Skylight Hallway:**

**Level of Historic Significance:** Medium

**Integrity:** Good

**Ranking:** Secondary

**Original Use:** Dining Room

**Existing Use:** Hallway and Lobby

**Historic Materials:** The skylight and accordion-wall support on the walls.

**Alterations:** The most notable change is the ceiling material and wall paneling.

The original ceiling has been covered by a suspended acoustical tile system.

Again, the paneling that you see is the original folding wall. When then battens are removed, the sections (complete with hardware scars) are visible.

The east wall was an addition as were all of the doors and carpeting. It is unknown if the original clear maple flooring remains under the carpet.
Rooms 154, 155, 156B. 156D:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Good
Ranking: Secondary

Original Use: Dining Room (156D was a small, more private dining room.)
Existing Use: Three Testing Labs and an Equipment Room

Historic Materials: The wood window trim and the floor radiators. 156D has a chair-rail and uses the original doorway openings (however the doors and trim are not original). In all rooms the paneling and ceiling moldings are intact.

Alterations: Originally this space was one large room with a smaller room at the back (156D). The large room has been split into three rooms with the fourth still at the back. The partition walls, moldings, ceiling tiles, and carpeting all are new. Also, the original north accordion wall, which can be seen from the hallway, was modified to accommodate two new doors. The ceiling was lowered a significant amount to hide HVAC units above. Carpeting was installed in 154, 155, and 156B (originally clear maple flooring), and in 156D (originally grey linoleum). It is unknown if either original flooring materials remain under the carpet.

New doors leading to the hallway at the west end of the room replaced a portion of the original accordion wall, now fixed in place. They are covered by a whiteboard and storage cabinet. The doors were kept to allow large equipment to be moved in and out, though these doors are never used.
**South Hallway, Ground Floor:**

- **Level of Historic Significance:** High
- **Integrity:** Good
- **Ranking:** Primary

**Original Use:** Hallway  
**Existing Use:** Hallway and Lobby

**Historic Materials:** Wood wall paneling, trim, one closet door, ceramic tile flooring, and structural columns. The women’s restroom door is also original.

**Alterations:** The most notable change is the ceiling material and east wall (room 154).

The original ceiling has been covered by a suspended acoustical tile system.

The east wall’s material and double doors are not original but were added in the 1974 remodel and have been preserved since then. A door to what was a trunk room (now a collection of small offices and subject run rooms) has been sealed, but the molding remains. The doors throughout the space are all different, only one being the original style (north of the skylight, first door to the east).

^ Hallway Materials.  
^ Hallway Door Styles.  
^ Room 154 - New (Unused) Doors.  
^ Sealed Doorway.
Rooms 199, 199A:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Poor
Ranking: Tertiary

Original Use: Living Room
Existing Use: Office and Conference/Meeting Room

Historic Materials: The firebox. The tiles at the fireplace’s base extend to the south wall, even though a partition has been added over them. The ceramic floor tile entrance is intact - identical to 137/139.

Alterations: This room has been divided into two rooms, bisecting the fireplace’s tiles. The bricks surrounding the fireplace and the wainscoting have been replaced, along with the addition of the office door. The ceiling tiles have been glued onto the original ceiling; no moulding remains.
Level of Historic Significance: Low
Integrity: Good
Ranking: Tertiary

Original Use: Hallway
Existing Use: Hallway

Historic Materials: Most walls, window and door moldings, baseboards, doors. The wood niches adjacent to some doors (originally used as telephone cases).

Alterations: In 1974 surface-mounted piping and electrical conduits were added. An elevator shaft and fire doors were also added. In 1984 new carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet.
Connecting Corridor, Second Floor:

Level of Historic Significance: No Significance  
Integrity: Excellent  
Ranking: Non-contributing

Original Use: Non-existent  
Existing Use: Connecting Corridor between North and South Halls.

Historic Materials: West wall’s masonry and windows (including casing).

Alterations: This space was not part of the original design. When the connecting corridor was added the west wall, which is the upper portion of the main lobby, was preserved. However the north, south, and east walls (as well as the ceiling and skylights) all are new construction from 1974.

The only alterations to the west wall seem to be the additions of the steel piping across the windows, baseboard heaters, and the electrical light fixtures.

^ Section - West Wall Connecting Corridor, 1974.
**SOUTH HALLWAY, SECOND FLOOR:**

- **Level of Historic Significance:** Low/Medium
- **Integrity:** Poor
- **Ranking:** Tertiary

**Original Use:** Hallway

**Existing Use:** Hallway

**Historic Materials:** 50% of walls, ceramic tile flooring at entries, and wood wall, window, and door moldings.

**Alterations:** Acoustical ceiling tiles, an ADA ramp, and fire doors were added. Most doors appear to be new. In 1984 new carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet.
Rooms 255, 257, 259:

Level of Historic Significance: Medium
Integrity: Poor
Ranking: Non-contributing

Original Use: Living Room
Existing Use: 3 Offices

Historic Materials: The firebox and terra-cotta tiles. Possibly the brick surrounding the firebox.

Alterations: The space was divided into three offices. All wall, floor, and ceiling finishes were altered. The fireplace’s brick and tile work may have been removed and replaced.

New carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet.
**Rooms 283, 284:**

**Level of Historic Significance:** Medium  
**Integrity:** Fair  
**Ranking:** Tertiary

**Original Use:** Living Room  
**Existing Use:** Lounge and Office

**Historic Materials:** The fireplace opening, brickwork, and tiling; wood window trim.

**Alterations:** New carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet. A ramp to the north was installed for ADA. The office on the west side has new wood trim and ceiling tiles.

The original archway in this room has been split by the new partition wall and filled in, although its outline is still visible.

^ **Fireplace and Wood Paneling.**  
^ **Entry Archway Detail.**  
< **Wood Paneling.**
**North Hallway, Third Floor:**

Level of Historic Significance: Low  
Integrity: Good  
Ranking: Tertiary

**Original Use:** Hallway  
**Existing Use:** Hallway

**Historic Materials:** Fire Escapes. Wood window/door casings and trim.

**Alterations:** New doors; all exposed piping, fire doors, electrical, and mechanical units were added. In 1984 new carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet.
Level of Historic Significance: Low
Integrity: Good
Ranking: Tertiary

Original Use: Hallway
Existing Use: Hallway

Historic Materials: Fire Escapes. Wood window/door casings and trim.

Alterations: New doors; all exposed piping, fire doors, electrical, and mechanical units were added. In 1984 new carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet.
**NORTH HALLWAY, FOURTH FLOOR:**

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**Level of Historic Significance:** Low  
**Integrity:** Good  
**Ranking:** Tertiary

**Original Use:** Hallway  
**Existing Use:** Hallway

**Historic Materials:** Window and door casings, doors and walls, the fire escapes, telephone niches, and ladders.

**Alterations:** All exposed piping, electrical, and mechanical units were added, as were fire doors and a fire escape door. In 1984 new carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet. A few doors have been replaced as well ([see North Hallway 4th Floor New vs. Old Door](#)).

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^ North Hallway 4th Floor Original Door and Telephone Case.  
^ North Hallway 4th Floor Base Detail.  
^ North Hallway 4th Floor Fire Escape.  
^ North Hallway 4th Floor New vs. Old Door.
**SOUTH HALLWAY, FOURTH FLOOR:**

- **Level of Historic Significance:** Low
- **Integrity:** Good
- **Ranking:** Tertiary

**Original Use:** Hallway
**Existing Use:** Hallway

**Historic Materials:** Window and door casings, most doors and walls, the fire escapes, telephone niches, and ladders.

**Alterations:** All exposed piping, electrical, and mechanical units were added, as were fire doors and a fire escape door. The fire escape ladders are original but have been moved from their original locations. In 1984 new carpeting was installed. It is unclear if the original taupe linoleum remains under the carpet.

^Molding and Piping Detail.

^South Hallway 4th Floor.

^South Hallway 4th Floor Detail.

^South Hallway 4th Floor Ladder.
APPENDIX A:
FIRST FLOOR PLAN, 1928 ORIGINAL
APPENDIX A:
SECOND FLOOR PLAN, 1928 ORIGINAL
APPENDIX A:
THIRD FLOOR PLAN, 1928 ORIGINAL
APPENDIX B:
FIRST FLOOR PLAN, 1974 REMODEL
APPENDIX B:
SECOND FLOOR PLAN, 1974 REMODEL
APPENDIX B:
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN, 1974 REMODEL
APPENDIX C:
FIRST FLOOR PLAN, 2009
APPENDIX C:
THIRD FLOOR PLAN, 2009
Appendix D: Significance and Integrity Ranking Methodology

Excerpt from University of Oregon Campus Heritage Landscape Plan (2008) -- pp. 44-46

- Ranking Methodology

OVERVIEW

Established historic preservation guidelines suggest that historic resources be evaluated based on their “significance” and “integrity,” within an identified “period of significance.” Landscapes that are considered to have both significance and integrity—that is, they accurately portray their original, essential qualities, thus helping to tell the landscape’s story during the period of significance—are typically prioritized for preservation treatment. Landscapes in particular evolve over time and may possess historic elements from more than a single period of significance. The targeted campus open spaces in this study have been evaluated using these parameters of significance and integrity, assessed within three distinct eras of significance. Those eras are the Inception Era (1876–1913), the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914–1946), and the Mid-century Era (1947–1974).

Since preservation of the overall character of a resource is often the goal, landscapes are usually evaluated according to their character-defining elements, or “landscape characteristics.” For this study, eleven characteristics were assessed for each of the twenty-one university landscape areas (see sidebar at right). These characteristics became the primary source for evaluations of significance and integrity.

A landscape survey form developed specifically for this study was designed to evaluate the character-defining features, level of integrity, associated era or eras, and condition.

The survey forms used for the forty-nine buildings is similar to the forms in common use by the City of Eugene.

PRIOR WORK

The university has been active in gaining formal recognition of its historic properties and landscape areas.

The two oldest university buildings and portions of the surrounding open spaces are listed as National Landmarks, the highest standing given to historic resources (there are fifteen for the entire state). An additional six buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and one is listed as a City Historic Landmark.

Five landscape areas, portions of three additional open spaces, and one structure (Dads’ Gates) have gained National Register status.

This survey incorporates data from prior surveys and research, in particular the 1989 Ellis Lawrence Building Survey.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

For this study, historic significance was determined through an evaluation of a resource’s contribution to the history of the University of Oregon from 1876–1974 and the shaping of its campus character. When appropriate, properties were also analyzed based on their regional and even national significance.
Significance:
“the meaning or value ascribed to a structure, landscape, object, or site based on the National Register criteria for evaluation...”

Integrity:
“the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evinced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period...”

Source: National Park Service, Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, p. 5

The actual evaluation of significance was based upon the process developed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, in which a resource must demonstrate significance based upon one or more of the following criteria:

A. Association with significant events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of campus or community history.

B. Association with significant persons.

C. Distinctive architecturally because it
- embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- represents the work of a master;
- possesses high artistic value; or
- represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

(Note: Criterion D, which addresses archeological significance, was not applicable to any campus resources.)

Four levels of significance were designated and used to rank each historic resource. The levels and their criteria were:

• high significance – considerable contribution to the history of the campus and its growth.
• medium significance – noteworthy contribution the history of the campus and its growth.
• low significance – discernable contribution to the history of the campus and its growth.
• very low significance/no significance – no discernable importance to the history of the campus and its growth.

There is always room for debate about a resource's level of significance, as this determination is not a strictly objective exercise. Though the rationale for determining a specific level might never be entirely irrefutable, it should be defendable. It also needs to be recognized that a resource's significance might change as important connections to the campus character are eventually realized or discovered.

INTEGRITY
Integrity is the degree to which the key elements that comprise a resource's significance are still evident today.

Evaluation of integrity is based upon the National Register process—defining the essential physical features that represent its significance and determining whether they are still present and intact enough to convey their significance. For example, if a building is deemed significant because of its exterior detailing and materials (criterion C), one would evaluate whether those items have remained relatively unaltered. If this is the case, the resource has excellent integrity.

Criteria were developed and used in the survey process to help determine each landscape area's level of integrity (described at left).
Integrity is ascertained based on the specific era (or eras) of significance for that particular landscape area. Four levels of integrity were established and applied to each landscape area:

- **excellent integrity** – retains a very high percentage of original fabric, and the original design intent is apparent.
- **good integrity** – retains a significant percentage of original fabric, with a discernable design intent.
- **fair integrity** – original fabric is present, but diminished.
- **poor integrity** – contains little historic fabric, and the original design intent is difficult to discern.

**RANKING LEVELS**

Historic rankings were determined by evaluating two factors: the resource's historic significance and its integrity. Using a matrix (below), an historic ranking for each resource was determined based on one of four ranking levels: primary, secondary, tertiary, and non-contributing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High historic significance</th>
<th>Medium historic significance</th>
<th>Low historic significance</th>
<th>Very low or no historic significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>excellent integrity</strong></td>
<td>primary ranking</td>
<td>secondary ranking</td>
<td>tertiary ranking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>good integrity</strong></td>
<td>primary ranking</td>
<td>secondary ranking</td>
<td>tertiary ranking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>fair integrity</strong></td>
<td>secondary ranking</td>
<td>tertiary ranking</td>
<td>non-contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>poor integrity</strong></td>
<td>non-contributing</td>
<td>non-contributing</td>
<td>non-contributing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Matrix used to determine the historic ranking levels for the landscape areas and buildings under study.